



# Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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## Agricultural Summary

Cooler temperatures dominated the month of January. Snow packs for this winter have been excellent. Farmers and ranchers are very optimistic about the upcoming season. Box Elder reports that the snow pack on the Bear River Drainage is still below 100% but is getting better with each storm. Cache County received an additional foot of snow over the weekend. Emery County reports that the moisture situation is looking very good to date. They are above normal at all of their sites on the Price/San Rafael drainage. Carbon County reports water content in the mountain snow pack is currently about 30% above average.

## Field Crops Summary

There have been a series of storms in parts Box Elder County during the last month. Cold temperatures have also been observed with several severe windstorms. Cache County reports there is nothing happening with crop production with the exception of making crop budgets and trying to decide how to pay for expensive fuel and fertilizer when spring does come. Weber County reports that snow level in the mountains looks good. Irrigation water for the summer should not be limiting. Snow cover has been on the fields for a month now. There is an increased risk of snow mold on winter wheat if the snow cover remains. Carbon County reports that snow cover in the valleys came early enough to keep the ground from a hard freeze so melting snow is soaking into the ground to help provide more moisture to the crops in the early spring. Wayne and Piute reports forage reserves, especially feeder hay, for cows is hard to find. Contacts are being made now for the purchase of next summers hay sales.

## Livestock Summary

Box Elder reports that livestock producers are beginning to calve out heifers with their cow herds due to start in mid-February. Grain prices are high but 90 percent of Box Elder producers do not have any grain to sell at these high prices and did not benefit from the upward market because they sold too early. Most farmers are spending their time keeping the livestock fed. Beef and sheep producers are busy calving and lambing. Duchesne reports lambing has started with the farm flocks. Cattlemen are preparing for calving to start with a few cows already calved. Emery County reports that producers are having to feed a lot of hay as it has been very cold over the past month as well as very stormy. Some producers are beginning to calve now, and would like to see temperatures moderate a bit. Cost of feed is a great concern for area producers. Uintah County reports deep and early snow forcing producers to start feeding hay early. Cold temperatures have put some stress on livestock, coupled with very little hay for sale which will cause much more stress than normal. Sheep producers are bringing sheep off of winter range to feed hay because of lack of feed. Wayne County reports a normal death loss of livestock within the area.

